

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 6 are canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, 10, 20 and 22 are amended, and claims 26-32 are added. Therefore, claims 1, 3-5 and 7-32 are pending. The specification is also amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6, 10, 21 and 22. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the features of canceled claims 2 and 6. New claim 26 recites the features of original claim 22 in independent form. Therefore, claims 1 and 26 are allowable.

The Office Action objects to the specification. The specification is amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 10, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 10, 20 and 21 are amended to obviate the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-20 and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over an article "Scanner-Model_Based Document Image Improvement" by Bern et al. (Bern). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, claim 1 recites the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 6. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Bern.

Claims 2-5, 7-9, 11-20 and 23-25 are patentable at least for their dependence on claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

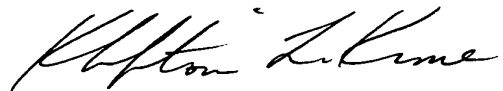
As described above, new independent claim 26 recites the features of original claim 22 in independent form and thus is allowable. Claims 27-32 recites features in dependent

claims 8, 19, 20, 21, 23 and 24, respectively. Claims 27-32 are patentable at least for their dependence on claim 26, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3-5 and 7-32 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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